MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 MARCH 1983

Lebanon

Netanya Talks -- The Netanya talks were characterized by "heightened and sharp discussions" with the Israelis insisting on their basic demands on security arrangements and mutual relations so that discussions continued in a "vicious circle," according to Beirut Radio reports on the latest Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. talks. A Lebanese official involved in the negotiations spoke of "heightened differences" on basic principles and the radio said Israel must relinquish its intransigent positions in order to avoid deadlock and suspension of the talks. The Israeli delegation refrained from describing the atmosphere at Netanya as optimistic and its chairman called on the Lebanese to state exactly what Lebanon wants from the negotiations, Jerusalem radio reported.

Security -- Four Lebanese Army men, including a colonel, were wounded when their unit was ambushed on its way to a firing range south of Ba'labakk, according to a 4 March Army Command statement broadcast by Beirut radio. Six attackers were killed or wounded in the fighting, which eased after intervention by the Syrian Arab deterrent forces, the statement said. According to Voice of Lebanon radio, the attackers were Shi'ite Amal gunmen and Iranian guards who had earlier warned the Army not to use the firing range.

In another development, the IDF spokesman announced that three Israeli soldiers were wounded in a 3 March ambush south of Ad-Damur, IDF Radio reported.

Egyptian-Israeli Talks

Israel and Egypt have resumed their dialogue and negotiations and now face a long series of meetings, the head of the Israeli delegation to the Ismailia talks announced in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio. Several useful ideas suitable as a basis for further consultations were put forward and the parties have agreed to meet again at the earliest opportunity, Cairo radio reported. The next meeting will focus on bilateral trade agreements, Jerusalem radio noted.

During the current talks the Egyptian delegation demanded that the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) replace the Israeli police unit in Tabah and also restated Egypt's opposition to the Israeli hotel operating in the area, Jerusalem radio reported. The Israelis said they will allow the MFO into Tabah in addition to the Israeli police and also called on the Egyptians to seek out those responsible for recently planting mines that killed five Negev Desert bedouin, according to Jerusalem and IDF radio reports.

Israel

Eytan on Missiles -- Israel has "no intention" of attacking Syria's SAM-5's and the Syrians are publicizing warnings of such an attack in order to provide an "alibi" should they decide to initiate action against Israel, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan said in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio.

Temple Mount Bomb -- Police refused a bomb found at the Majlis gate to Temple Mount, IDF radio reported on 4 March.

Egypt

A 1 March AL-AHRAM editorial strongly criticized the PNC statement differentiating between Egyptian nationalist forces and the Egyptian Government. The PNC resolution on Egypt used provocative phrases and distorted facts, AL-AHRAM said, and its

expression of support for those struggling to end the Camp David policy is particularly "disgusting in its implications."

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received a written message from Soviet leaders on the latest developments in the Arab region, INA reported.

Oil Affairs

The oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Algeria, Libya, the UAE, Venezuela, Nigeria, and Indonesia held talks in London aimed at securing a new agreement on oil prices and output, KUNA reported. Noting that the Libyan minister's presence at the talks indicates that every attempt is being made to secure a "water-tight" agreement prior to a full OPEC meeting, KUNA said the UAE oil minister expressed hope that the eight ministers will reach agreement during further talks on 4 March. A Riyadh radio commentary on the current talks likewise expressed "cautious optimism" that a formula will be reached paving the way for a unified OPEC decision on stabilizing prices for the next 2 years.

Iraq

Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf will head the Iraqi delegation to the New Delhi Nonaligned Summit Conference, INA reported.

Libya

Nonaligned Summit Initiatives -- Libya is seeking to host the next Nonaligned Summit Conference in order to prevent it convening in Baghdad, MENA reported. A Libyan attempt to obtain Egypt's suspension from the Nonaligned Movement failed since none of the other delegations at the presummit ministerial council meetings supported the Libyan initiative, MENA also reported.

Libyan Airliner 'Intercepted' -- An Italian fighter "intercepted" a Libyan airliner over the Mediterranean on 27 February, JANA reported.

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FOREIGN MINISTERS DEBATE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE

BK031607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign ministers of nonaligned countries who began a 2-day conference in New Delhi this morning have been discussing the question of Kampuchea's representation in the movement.

Simultaneously, two committees have been in session: one considering the political draft and the other dealing with economic issues. They will make their recommendations to the summit opening on Monday.

There have been intense consultations behind the scenes at different levels. External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee had separate meetings with the foreign ministers of a number of countries, including Yugoslavia, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Vietnam, Bhutan, Libya, Argentina, and Mauritius. Foreign Secretary Rasgotra also met ministers and officials of several countries, among them the foreign minister of Iran.

In the discussion on Kampuchea, about 50 countries were listed to take part. The conference spokesman, Manishanker Aiyyar, told newsmen that the discussion might continue late into the evening. India's case on the issue was put forward by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee as Narasimha Rao was in the chair. He made a strong plea to the foreign ministers not to allow any divisions in the movement. Explaining India's national position, he recalled the barbaric atrocities committed by the Pol Pot regime on innocent Kampucheans. It is the People's Republic of Kampuchea which deserves the support and encouragement of the Nonaligned Movement. But India has deliberately set aside its national position in deference to the decision taken by the movement at Havana. The only practical way is to leave the Kampuchean seat vacant. In India's view the decision taken at Havana to this effect was the right one in the circumstances. This formula had enabled the movement to steer clear of avoidable controversy on an issue which has a dangerous potential for dividing it.

The representatives of Malaysia and Singapore, which are members of ASEAN, supported the claim of the coalition govenment led by Prince Sihanouk to represent Kampuchea. They spoke of military intervention in Kampuchea by a foreign power. Another ASEAN country, Indonesia, as well as Pakistan, broadly supported this stand. However, the Vietnamese foreign minister said that his country has already withdrawn part of its forces from Kampuchea. He added that it will completely withdraw its forces as soon as China ceases its threat to Kampuchea and support to the Pol Pot regime. He accused the Pol Pot regime of killing half the population of Kampuchea, including 500,000 Muslims. Yugoslavia demanded that the coalition government led by Prince Sihanouk should represent Kampuchea in the movement. It, however, felt that the conference should avoid getting bogged down over a single issue.

The All India Radio's correspondent reports that the majority view appears to be emerging that it is better to leave the Kampuchean seat vacant than to exacerbate the situation by discussing the issue further. Most delegations believe that the Havana formula is the most practical approach. The expectation is that the matter will be discussed objectively and the summit will be free to discuss challenges that the nonaligned countries face.

When the conference began this morning, External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao was elected chairman in succession to Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca. In a brief speech after his election, Narasimha Rao said that the New Delhi conference is taking place at a difficult period in international relations. The need to avoid the danger of war and consolidate international peace and security has assumed the utmost urgency.

Narasimha Rao said that as developing countries the nonaligned nations are conscious of the need to restructure international economic relations on a more equitable and just basis. He hoped that the conference will discuss the issue without acrimony and in a spirit of accommodation.

Speaking later, on behalf of the Asian group, the foreign minister of Pakistan, Yaqub Khan, described the host country India as a pioneer of anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist traditions in this continent.

The representative of Belize spoke about the situation in Central America, which he said, continues to deteriorate without any sign of a solution. Speaking for the European group, the leader of the delegation of Malta said under India's chairmanship the movement can look forward to the future with justifiable confidence.

Faruq Qaddumi of the PLO said the national liberation movement looks up to the New Delhi summit with great expectations. India's struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and racism. [as heard]

The inaugural session was also addressed by the representatives of Sao Tome and Principe. They expressed their admiration for the arrangements made for the summit at such short notice.

When the Economic and Political Committees of the nonaligned summit began their meetings in New Delhi this morning, there was general appreciation of the two drafts prepared by the host country India. In the Economic Committee, speakers expressed their interest in the three-pronged strategy outlined in the economic draft. Indian delegate Romesh Bhandari told the committee that the strategy calls for continued efforts for holding global negotiations, immediate measures for cooperation between the advanced and the developing countries and steps for promoting cooperation among the developing nations. In the economic draft, there are several proposals relating to South-South cooperation. It suggests the setting up of a center in Havana for information on transnational corporations.

It also proposes that a center be opened in New Delhi for science and technology.

The Economic Committee met under the chairmanship of the minister for economic cooperation of Nicaragua, (?Edmundo Jacquin). Faroqq Subhan of Bangladesh, who is chairman of the Group of 77, reported to the Economic Committee on the efforts for global negotiations on a new economic order. He said the Group of 77 has made relentless efforts to get the negotiations started. The responsibility for the failure to launch the negotiations was that of a few major industrialized countries and more especially that of one such country.

In the Political Committee, which met under the chairman of Miljan Komatina of Yugoslavia, there was a general exchange of views on the political draft. Speakers said that the draft struck the right balance.

Yugoslavia's Mojsov

LD031707 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1150 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Excerpts] New Delhi, 3 Mar (TANJUG) -- The ministerial conference of nonaligned countries resumed work this afternoon by discussing who should represent Kampuchea.

Taking part in the debate on Kampuchea, Lazar Mojsov, federal secretary for foreign affairs, began by voicing his satisfaction at the fact that the seventh summit of nonaligned countries is taking place in the capital of India, one of the founders of nonalignment, whose contribution to the policy and Nonaligned Movement is well known.

I am confident, Mojsov said, that New Delhi as the venue of the conference will further strengthen our resolve to do our best for its success. The Yugoslav delegation will exert maximum efforts to this end.

Extending his congratulations to the Indian foreign minister on his election as chairman of the ministerial conference, Mojsov said: "Your wisdom, statesmanship, and abilities will help us to achieve full success at the conference."

Speaking about who should represent Kampuchea in the Nonaligned Movement, Mojsov reportedly recalled that Yugoslavia's attitude on this was adopted long ago. "We cannot," he said, "accept foreign intervention and force either in Kampuchea or anywhere else in the world." According to Mojsov, in adopting such an attitude, Yugoslavia was guided by one of the basic principles of the UN Charter and nonaligned policy, namely, that the use of force and resorting to interventions against sovereign independent states is impermissible under any pretext. That is the essence of the UN and nonaligned views. That attitude again manifested itself powerfully a little over a year ago when the UN General Assembly adopted the declaration on the impermissibility of interventions and of interference in internal affairs, which was drafted and presented by nonaligned countries. The use of force, interventions, and interference were thereby placed outside the law and that attitude represents the only basis on which peace and the security of independent countries can be built in conditions of equality and freedom. "My country can see no other acceptable road to the attainment of this goal," Mojsov said.

This is why Yugoslavia, Mojsov stressed, with the majority of nonaligned and a growing number of other countries, on several occasions in the UN General Assembly has voted in favor of the credentials of the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea.

In keeping with the principles of the policy of nonalignment, Yugoslavia believes it not possible to permit the legalization of the fruits of the use of force and the results of interventions. This, Mojsov said, represents a question of the greatest importance for all of us if we want to maintain and safeguard the right of every people to preserve its independence and elect and support a government of its own choice. In this sense, we consider this problem not only regional but also global, because of its wider implications. Voting at the successive regular sessions of the UN General Assembly furnishes the best proof that the broadest international community is deeply aware of this fact. We will further raise the prestige of our movement if we again underline the need to act when considering our own problems in the same way as we demand from others in their behavior.

At the sixth summit of nonaligned countries, Mojsov added, Yugoslavia adopted the resolute stand that the Government of Democratic Kampuchea is the sole representative of Kampuchea. At the conferences and meetings of nonaligned countries, the formula of the "empty seat" has so far been used for Kampuchea. However, the vast majority of UN member countries adopted the view later on in the United Nations in favor of the Government of Kampuchea. Mojsov expressed his firm conviction that, in keeping with this principled attitude, the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, should also be represented in the Nonaligned Movement.

Since we are fully aware of the fact that consensus is now necessary on both this and other questions, Yugoslavia will accept the attitude adopted by this conference, so that we should then be able to concentrate our attention on the main and broader problems facing us and avoid having the conference become bogged down over one problem. (?Angry) words, unjustifiable attacks, and bitter debating certainly will not make it easier to achieve a consensus on this issue.

Finally, emphasizing that the results of the seventh summit are awaited by the entire world as further proof of the vitality and dynamism of the policy of nonalignment at this dramatic moment in international relations, Mojsov said that the Yugoslav delegation will take part in the discussion on the essence of this problem later when it was considered as a part of the proposed draft political declarations with reference to the problem of Kampuchea.

Pakistan's Yaqub Kahn

BK031659 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The 2-day conference of nonaligned foreign ministers, which will prepare the agenda for the seventh summit to begin Monday, began in New Delhi today. India assumed the responsibilities of chairman of the foreign ministers conference. Cuba was the former chairman of the conference.

The foreign ministers conference at its afternoon session began deliberations on the representation of Kampuchea.

Speaking during the debate on the issue, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that continued deprivation of Democratic Kampuchea's legitimate seat in the movement is a serious injustice and is impairing the principles and ideologies on which the Nonaligned Movement is based. He said that Democratic Kampuchea's seat cannot be given to any administration which came into power due to a foreign attack and which is maintaining its hold on the strength of foreign troops.

Pakistan's foreign minister said that the government headed by Prince Sihanouk is the only legitimate representative of the Kampuchean people. Only his government should have the right to represent Kampuchea at the conference. He said that the present condition of keeping the Kampuchean seat vacant in the movement is not legally in conformity with the situation adopted at the United Nations and other international organizations. Moreover, this method is also contrary to the feelings of an overwhelming majority of the nonaligned countries. He said he hopes that this excess [aiyadat] will be removed by giving the Kampuchea seat to Democratic Kampuchea's delegation and by restoring its legitimate rights in the Nonaligend Movement.

Radio Pakistan correspondent Tanvir Siddiqui in a dispatch from New Delhi reported that several Asian countries demanded to restore Kampuchea representation at the conference and that the Democratic Kampuchea Government headed by Prince Sihanouk be given an opportunity to assume its seat. They also demanded that the decision made at the Havana summit to keep the Kampuchean seat vacant be changed.

The Political and Economic Committees of the nonaligned countries started their work in New Delhi this morning. The major issues to be considered by the Economic Committee include the continuous efforts for negotiations at the international level.

Egypt's Ghali

NC031742 Cairo MENA in English 1736 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, March 3 (MENA) -- Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali told the non-aligned ministerial committee tonight that Egypt supports the Kampuchean Government of Prince Norodom Sihanouk but called for a middle-of-the-road solution.

He pointed out that unanimity is one of the corner-stones of the Non-aligned Movement, and this should be achieved by means of middle-of-the-road solutions and sacrifice for the sake of unanimity.

He said Egypt has diplomatic relations with the Sihanouk government and has supported it within the United Nations.

Dr Ghali expressed belief that India's chairmanship of the Non-aligned Movement in the next three years would give a strong impetus to non-alignment.

Malaysia's Ghazali

BK031553 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Malaysia has called on the Nonaligned Movement to work out seriously the criteria and procedures to unseat or suspend a member. The minister of foreign affairs, Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, says only in this way members can feel safe and secure and will be free from any possible travesty of justice. He was addressing the debate on the Kampuchea issue at the presummit Nonaligned Foreign Minister's Conference in New Delhi today. Tan Sri Ghazali says membership of the Nonaligned Movement is highly important, if not sacred to a member, and as such should be preserved with utmost care.

He warned that there could be no provision in the movement if the question of membership is treated with triviality as was done in the Havana summit. There can be no sense of security to members if they could be removed arbitrarily. Our correspondent (S. Ganapatti) reports:

[Begin recording] There [words indistinct] a debate on the question of the Kampuchean seat started this afternoon, as Tan Sri Ghazali making a fervent appeal that Prince Norodom Sihanouk be invited to the summit. He was supported by his colleagues from ASEAN and a number of other countries. Tan Sri Ghazali repeatedly pointed out that Democratic Kampuchea was a victim of a great injustice done at the Havana summit when he was deprived of his seat by means in contravention of the cardinal principles of the Nonaligned Movement. The whole business, to say the least, was irregular and arbitrary. If the Havana mistake is not corrected in New Delhi, then it will become a precedent. It will surely be applied with impunity on another occasion to unseat another member. Then Tan Sri Ghazali asked: Must the New Delhi summit inherit a bad name and allow the world to say that the Nonaligned Movement has become utterly impotent, that it has lost its will to right a wrong, which is so flagrant and obvious. It will be a great tragedy if Prince Sihanouk, who has made an enormous contribution to the cause of nonalignment is not present at the summit. Prince Sihanouk is engaged in the same struggle for freedom and the ideals that the Nonaligned Movement stands for. As such, he should not be allowed to suffer a double misfortune, not only by being aggressed by a foreign power but also deprived of his rightful place in the Nonaligned Movement, of which he was a founding member.

(S. Ganapatti), at the Nonaligned Movement in New Delhi [end recording]

Further Report

BK040316 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] The Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference in New Delhi continued its debate on the question of Kampuchea's representation till late last night. It will again take up the issue this morning.

Briefing newsmen at midnight while the discussions were still on, the conference spokesman Mr Manishanker Aiyyar said 35 delegates have already spoken on the issue and another 25 or so will do so today. Opinion on who should represent Kampuchea was almost evenly divided among those who have already made their statements.

Among those who favored the Havana formula of keeping the seat vacant or Kampuchea being represented by the Heng Samrin regime included Laos, Grenada, India, Mozambique, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Mauritius, and Cuba. On the other hand, the demand to follow the UN precedence or to invite Prince Sihanouk to the summit was supported among others by Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Oman, Zaire, Kuwait, Singapore, Nepal, Senegal, Peru, Yugoslavia, and Ecuador. The Libyan delegate said his country does not recognize the government in exile. Algeria wanted a political solution to the issue. The Bhutanse delegate, although favoring Democratic Kampuchea, suggested that the issue should be taken up after the summit was over because acrimony would only harm the unity and solidarity of the movement.

The Political Committee concluded its general debate in which some 40 delegates took part. In his concluding remarks, the chairman said the draft which was presented by India is an excellent basis to work on. It was decided that the paragraph which relates to the movement's evaluation of international situation and affirmation of its essential principles will be discussed by the Political Committee itself. Some of the other paragraphs will be examined by a drafting committee shared by Mr Paul Lusaka of Zambia.

Conclusion of Discussion

BK040857 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] The conference of foreign ministers of nonaligned countries has concluded the discussion on the representation of Kampuchea. The chairman, Narasimha Rao, announced that the plenary session will reconvene at 1500 this afternoon. Kampuchea's representation was the only subject discussed in the plenary this morning and delegates of 26 countries took part in the debate. While some delegates wanted Kampuchea's seat to remain vacant, some others spoke either in favor of seating the Heng Samrin regime or the coalition government headed by Prince Sihanouk.

In the Political Committee, a number of amendments were suggested to the draft political declaration. The committee will transform itself into a working group to discuss the amendment.

The Economic Committee decided to set up a drafting group to consider that part of the draft document which relates to cooperation among developing countries. A number of amendments have been suggested to the economic draft also. Some of them relate to the draft program of action, the working of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Some amendments suggest that major economic issues not taken up in the draft, like environment and Antarctica, be included in it. It was suggested that Antarctica should be regarded as a common heritage of mankind.

LIBYAN SECRETARY CALLS FOR EGYPTIAN SUSPENSION

LD031812 Tripoli JANA in English 1625 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, Jumada 19, March 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The secretary of the General People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, said that the capitulatory Camp David accords signed by the lackey As-Sadat encouraged the Zionist enemy to invade Lebanon militarily and incur such heavy losses upon the Lebanese and Palestinian people.

He added that this barbaric invasion of Lebanon's enabling the Zionist enemy to implement a similar submissive agreement.

This was included in a speech delivered at this morning's opening session of the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference here. He also pointed out that the previous agreements reached at the 6th Nonaligned Conference in Havana still holds and that Egypt's suspended membership to the movement is still pending. He said: "The Zionist enemy, backed by the Camp David accords and their likes, is continuing its aggression against the nation. Hence, it is important that the 7th Summit Conference should include a clear statement regarding the suspension of Egypt's membership to the Nonaligned Movement.

MENA Report

NC031326 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 3 Mar (MENA) -- A Libyan attempt to raise the question of suspending Egypt's membership in the Nonaligned Movement failed today. None of the 101 delegations participating in the nonaligned states' ministerial council meetings which began in New Delhi today supported the Libyan attempt. Rejection by all the states of the Libyan attempt resulted in the Indian foreign minister, who heads the meeting, announcing that the matter is closed.

MENA SAYS LIBYA SEEKING TO HOST NEXT SUMMIT

NC032252 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Excerpt] New Delihi, 3 Mar (MENA) -- MENA has learned that Libya, in agreement with Iran and Syria, has embarked on an endeavor to host the next nonaligned summit conference and prevent it from convening in Baghdad. The Arab foreign ministers have rejected this Libyan initiative.

MENA has also learned that the Libyan foreign secretary is expected to submit an official request to this effect to the foreign ministers conference during its session tomorrow morning.

MENA learned from conference sources that Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has sent an urgent message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on Libya's initiative to host the conference. In his message Tariq 'Aziz explained that consultations were continuing on all levels to convince the nonaligned states that Baghdad will be the venue for the next nonaligned summit.

GOUKOUNI OUEDDEI DEPARTS AFTER BEING DETAINED

BK040528 Hong Kong AFP in English 0510 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, March 4 (AFP) -- A five-member delegation of the ousted Chad regime of Goukouni Oueddei flew back home late last night after being detained at Palm airport for 24 hours, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. The delegation arrived here around midnight on Wednesday by an Air France flight to attend the Seventh Summit of Nonaligned Countries.

The members of the delegation were lodged in the VIP lounge at the airport as they had no visas and health certificates.

India recognises the present regime of Hissein Habre, whose delegation is participating at the Delhi conference.

IRAQI 'COMMANDOS' ARRIVE TO GUARD SADDAM HUSAYN

BK040704 Hong Kong AFP in English 0547 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, March 4 (AFP) -- Iraq has reportedly flown in massive security personnel to protect President Saddam Husayn when he arrives to attend the nonaligned summit meeting underway here.

Indian protocol has permitted up to eight commandos for each head of state to be flown in but the INDIAN EXPRESS daily said today that 150 Iraqi commandos had arrived in the capital Wednesday night, added to the six who had arrived earlier. It said a third batch was expected to arrive with the President himself.

Iraq is concerned about the large number of Iranians in India. The paper said the commandos were carrying suitcases of sophisticated weapons and arrived by a special plane. India had said it would allow bodyguards to carry automatic pistols only.

A Delhi police source confirmed the arrival and said the commandos had initially been stopped at the airport but were later allowed in on orders believed to have come from Foreign Minister Narasimha Raq. Reportedly, the Iraqi commandos have since spread out in guest homes across New Delhi.

COLOMBIA FAVORS NEGOTIATED SOLUTION FOR EL SALVADOR

PA031631 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1514 GMT 3 Mar 83

[By Jose Katigbak]

[Text] New Delhi, 3 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Colombia today rallied for a negotiated political solution in El Salvador and said it would probably participate in an international force to maintain peace there. Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo said at a news conference that there is evidence of U.S. interference in Central America and exhorted all parties concerned to abstain from turning the area into a testing ground for an East-West confrontation.

The Salvadoran Government, supported by the United States, is fighting against leftist guerrillas trying to overthrow it. After 3 years of civil war, over 35,000 persons, mostly civilians, have been killed.

Lloreda, who is attending the nonaligned foreign ministers preparatory meeting for the summit conference, when Colombia will join the movement, said that negotiations are the only way to put an end to the Salvadoran civil war. "If the conflict is settled through negotiations and there is need to reinforce the agreement with a multilateral peace force, we would most probably participate in it," he said.

Lloreda noted Colombia's support for Argentine sovereignty claims over the Malvinas Islands, which are under British control. He added, however, that he expects the conference declaration tone on the matter to be moderate. "Even the moderate tone for their own benefit," he added.

Lloreda explained that Colombia also supports expanding the OAS to include Belize, Canada, and Cuba.

Cuba was expelled from the OAS in 1962 for adopting a Marxist position described as incompatible with the inter-American organization.

Lloreda said he hopes the Colombian application for full Nonaligned Movement membership will be ratified by the conference opening Monday. He regretted the fact that Venezuela, which had also applied for membership to the movement, withdrew its application due to opposition by Guyana, with which it has a pending territorial dispute.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSES DRAFT RESOLUTION

LD031411 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1305 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi March 3 (TANJUG) -- The Political Committee of the Seventh Non-aligned Summit, chaired by Miljan Komatin of Yugoslavia, continued its work this afternoon, Thursday. The committee is discussing the Indian draft resolution which will be submitted for adoption to the seventh summit. The summit opens next Monday.

It has been learned that the Yugoslav representative on the committee, Yugoslav ambassador to the United Nations Ignac Golob, has participated in the debate. Golob assessed that the draft resolution is more than a working basis and that it is also a framework for a good consensus. Golob said that the draft is funded on the authentic principles, aims and criteria of non-alignment.

The Yugoslav representative said that India, in its preparations for the summit, succeeded in creating an atmosphere conducive to the unity of action and that the draft document reflects the continuity of the positions of the Movement of Non-alignment since the Belgrade summit to the present day and gives a clear picture of the present situation.

Golob singled out the elements of the draft which refer to the struggle for peace, independence, security, detente, disarmament, development, non-interference and non-intervention and said that the proposed document also contains stands on the main foci of crisis in the world.

He stressed that the draft solution reflects solidarity with liberation movements which, he said, has always been one of the outstanding aspects of non-alignment.

Golob stated the conviction that the document provides a basis for achieving, with no special difficulty, an overall action unity of the nonaligned, particularly in the U.N.

This would mean the conference's fulfilling international community's expectations and changing the current unfavourable climate in international relations, Golob said.

The Yugoslav representative stressed that all these qualities featured in the resolution draft prepared by India, as the summit host, do not exclude the need for improving the document, but only within the framework of its content, spirit and structure which already are contained in the proposed draft.

All this can be done if we keep in mind our common interests and the need for strengthening the movement as a global, independent and nonbloc factor, Golob said in ending.

4 March Meeting

LD041315 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1023 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, March 4 (TANJUG) -- The Political Committee of the non-aligned ministerial conference here this morning (Friday) decided to recommend to the conference president to send a message of solidarity to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

As officially reported, the committee has received a number of suggestions and amendments aimed at improving the draft political declaration submitted by India.

Chairman of the Committee Miljan Komatina (Yugoslavia) listed the proposals in four groups.

The first concerns not only the numerical growth of the Movement of Non-alignment but also its role in international relations. The second relates to continuity of the non-aligned countries' activity in the period since the last summit. The third includes proposals highlighting the role of non-aligned countries in restructuring the present international relations, and the fourth suggestions pointing out the principles of the movement.

This afternoon the Political Committee meets as a working group to discuss the amendments to the draft resolution.

The object of this morning's debate in the Economic Committee was the introductory part of the draft economic resolution. Eleven groups of amendments were submitted.

Notable attention was devoted to the proposal on the need for continuous adjustment of actions by the nonaligned countries and the Group of 77 which rallies all the developing countries.

Two concrete proposals set out by Algeria and Sri Lanka on prompting the industrialized nations to speed up the launching of global negotiations were also discussed.

The fist proposal envisages the forming of a special committee to be chaired by India and made up of two representatives of every region. The second proposal calls for the establishment of a joint committee for the developing and industrial countries at a high political level.

OFFICIALS ADDRESS ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ISSUES

Cuba's Rodriguez Llompart

FL032205 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Hector Rodriguez Llompart, president of Cuba's State Committee for Economic Cooperation and Cuban representative to the Nonaligned Movement's Economic Committee, has accused imperialism as the oppressor of peoples struggling to achieve their full independence.

In his speec' at the New Delhi meeting, Rodriguez Llompart stressed the validity of the appraisals made at the sixth summit in Havana regarding the world economic situation. He said the draft declaration presented by India as host of the seventh summit constituted an acceptable point of departure to arrive at an agreement which may serve as a useful tool for the nonaligned.

He added that the present world economic crisis is a symptom of structural and recumbent [yacente] maladjustments which has been aggravated by the level of inflation and unemployment in industrialized capitalist countries. Delegate Rodriguez Llompart noted that relations of exploitation and inequality continue to exist and industrialized capitalist countries bear the blame. He said: The adverse effects of the capitalist crisis are felt by underdeveloped economies through trade, monetary, and financial international relations. Under these conditions, the most important reason to promote a way out of the present crisis does not appear to be the interdependence of the so-called North-South economies, Rodriguez Llompart stressed.

He also specified that to the Nonaligned Movement the struggle for peace and to put a halt to the arms race is a matter of urgent need.

Pakistani Delegate

BK040324 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Pakistan has called for far-reaching measures to avert the possibility of an economic crisis faced by the world. The call was made by the Pakistan delegate in the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] Economic Committee who took up consideration of the economic part of the NAM declaration in New Delhi today. He said the big problems of the Third World -- contraction of world trade, protectionism and fall in commodity prices -- are reflective of the world crisis and require a global response. Pakistan suggested that a strategy be adopted by the NAM countries for attaining the twin objectives of (?breaking the impasse) in the North-South dialogue and in promoting cooperation among developing countries.

While extending general support to the various programs contained in the draft, Pakistan suggested that it should be more forward looking, concise, sharply focused, and action-oriented. Pakistan would also like to underline the need for priorities in various programs. It also stressed that four areas deserve special attention. These were the question of transfer of resources including debt problem, the growing menace of protectionism, and questions relating to food and agriculture and management. Pakistan also called upon the Economic Committee to address itself to concrete measures and a concrete program of action to break the deadlock both on the North-South issue and on effective economic cooperation among developing countries. Most of the delegates including Pakistan described the draft as a good basis for the work of the conference.

ZAIRE APPOINTED CONFERENCE VICE CHAIRMAN

AB031845 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1408 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 3 Mar (AZAP) -- Zaire was appointed vice chairman of the conference of foreign affairs ministers of nonaligned countries during its plenary session which followed the opening of the ministerial conference in New Delhi on Thursday.

APS CITES NONALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU REPORT

LD031117 Algiers APS in English 1025 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, 3/3/83 (APS) -- The report by the president of the coordination bureau of the non-aligned countries, Mr Raul Roa Kouri, at the foreign affair ministers' conference whose works are due to begin on Thursday in New Delhi underlines in the whole the cohesion, the capacity of action of the movement in the difficult and complex context of the present international situation.

The document reaffirms the close attachment of the movement to the principles and objectives undertaken to alter it and weaken the eagerness of its historical struggle against apartheid, racism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, and apartheid racism Zionism and foreign domination.

The report also underlines the excellent performances, made out by the movement which confirmed its importance as an independent factor in the international relations and its undeniable influence in the infighting for equitable relations between countries and the peoples in a world of independence, equality and justice.

The report by president of the coordination bureau also underlines the role played by the non-aligned bureau for the promotion of important resolutions especially on disarmament and arm race, policy of apartheid of the South-African racist regime, the Palestine and the Middle East issue, the independence of Namibia, the right of people to self-determination and for independence, information and world economic situation.

The document recalled however that beside of the UN organisation framework the Non-aligned Movement undertook initiatives and actions so much through the instrumentality of the coordination bureau as well as its president.

These actions are aimed at reinforcing the international solidarity with the Palestinian just cause and other Arab peoples, with southern Africa peoples and Latin America peoples and the Caribbean peoples face to the imperialist aggression threats and pressures. [as received]

REPORTAGE ON FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS

GCC Ministers

GF031520 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, 3 Mar (WAKH) -- The GCC foreign affairs ministers who are taking part in the conference of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries in New Delhi held a meeting today at the residence of Bahraini Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah. Following the meeting, the Bahraini minister noted that the GCC foreign affairs ministers reviewed a number of issues on the agenda of the foreign ministers' conference and the agenda of the summit of the nonaligned countries, in addition to coordinating the GCC countries' stances toward these issues.

The Bahraini foreign affairs minister added that the GCC foreign affairs ministers will continue to hold consultations during the duration of the conference.

PDRY, DRA, SRV

GF031524 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs, and leader of the PDRY delegation participating in the conference, yesterday met with the foreign ministers of Afghanistan and Vietnam and exchanged views on issues dealing with the Nonaligned Summit Conference.

DRA's Dost

LD031753 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Shah Mohammad Dost, DRA minister of foreign affairs, today met in New Delhi with the foreign affairs minister of Grenada.

According to the BAKHTAR reporter in New Delhi, at the meeting, which was held in a friendly and sincere atmosphere, both sides discussed the agenda of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit.

The DRA minister of foreign affairs also met with the SRV foreign minister.

Shah Mohammad Dost also met separately with the PDRY and Angolan foreign ministers.

At the meetings, which were held in a friendly and sincere atmosphere, the agenda and related issues connected with the Seventh Nonaligned Summit were discussed.

Rolandhis, Ghali, Malmierca

NC031852 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1730 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Rolandhis, who is participating in the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference in New Delhi, had separate meetings this evening with Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Hameed, and Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ghali.

During his meeting with Malmierca, Rolandhis thanked him for Cuba's support of the Cyprus cause and expressed his appreciation of the lively interest Malmierca showed in the Cyprus issue during his country's chairmanship of the Nonaligned Movement and for his contribution to the advancement of the issue within the framework of the movement's conferences.

Rolandhis briefed both Malmierca and the Sri Lankan foreign minister on the current phase of the Cyprus issue, which constitutes one of the grave international problems which will occupy the conference. Both Cuba and Sri Lanka are members of the nonaligned contact group on the Cyprus issue. During the meetings, views were exchanged on other issues on the conferences' agenda.

During the meeting between Rolandhis and Ghali, a review was made of existing relations between Cyprus and Egypt, which are developing satisfactorily.

Our correspondent in New Delhi reports that Cyprus has been elected a member of the conference's constitutional committee, which will work out the text of the final declaration. All the members of the Cypriot delegation are actively participating in the work of the conferences' committees. Tonight Rolandhis will attend an official dinner given by Indian Foreign Minister Rao in honor of the foreign ministers participating in the conference.

Iraq's 'Aziz

JN031842 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, 3 Mar (INA) -- Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today separately with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak a Khalifah, Yugoslav Foreign Affairs Federal Secretary Lazar Majsov, and Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Abdul Carder Shahul Hameed.

The talks dealt with the topics submitted to the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference, which opened in the Indian capital toay, and issues related to the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference, which is due to begin on Monday.

'Aziz, Arab Ministers

JN031848 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, 3 Mar (INA) -- The Arab foreign ministers met here today at the invitation of Iraq to discuss the proposed agenda of the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference and the summit agenda in order to coordinate stands on the basic issues that will be discussed during the forthcoming meetings with a view to ensuring a unified Arab stand as far as possible.

The Arab ministers discussed the basic topics pertaining to the Arab nation, headed by those on the Palestinian issue and the situation in Lebanon, in addition to international affairs related to the Nonaligned Movement. The ministers agreed to continue their contacts and meet again tomorrow.

Iran's Velayati

GF040702 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] Our country's Foreign Minister Velayati, who is in New Delhi to participate in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries, met with the foreign ministers of Grenada, Ghana, Algeria and Bangladesh. They discussed bilateral relations and movements.

In his meeting with Taleb Ibrahimi, Algerian foreign minister, Velayati discussed the expansion of relations between the two countries and the items on the agenda of the nonaligned summit, which will convene next Monday in New Delhi. The two foreign ministers, while coordinating their stands in the conference, stressed the importance of strengthening the Nonaligned Movement and its effective role in the Third World.

The report also added that Velayati and his Ghanaian counterpart discussed the views of the two countries on further strengthening the movement and the necessity of campaigning against the plots of imperialists and world-devourers.

GANDHI WELCOMES AFGHAN PRIME MINISTER 4 MAR

BK040851 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] The Afghanistan prime minister, Mr Soltan Ali Keshtmand, arrived in New Delhi today. He was given a warm welcome. The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, received him at the airport.

SOVIETS REPORTEDLY SET UP MORE MILITARY POSTS

BK0021428 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] In Afghanistan, the Soviet troops are reported to have set up more military posts along the highways which interlink the big cities in the country. Long-range cannons have been installed at these posts which can shell more than a 12-km range. Correspondents say the object of setting up these posts is apparently to safeguard the highways from approach of freedom fighters so that Soviet convoys can be secured to pass through these highways.

According to a report, on the 17th of last month, the foreign forces heavily shelled (Eshooky) village near Kabul from the newly set up military posts. The shelling demolished several houses and caused a huge loss of life and property.

DEFENSE MINISTER RETURNS FROM MOSCOW 3 MARCH

LD031517 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Major-General 'Abdol Qader, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of national defense, who led a high-ranking DRA delegation on an official friendly visit to Moscow at the invitation of Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Ustinov, returned to Kabul this afternoon.

He was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by Mohammad Esma'il Danesh, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee and minister of mines and industries; a number of party Central Committee members; members of the DRA Council of Ministers; Army generals and high-ranking officers; and the Soviet ambassador and military attache in Kabul.

PAPER CITES REFUGEES KILLING IN PESHAWAR

GF022002 Lahore JANG in Urdu 23 Feb 83 p 8

[By correspondent]

[Text] Peshawar -- Four Afghan refugees sitting in a local teahouse near the bus stop at Charsadda were attacked by a number of other Afghan refugees using Soviet-made guns. Two Afghans were killed while another was seriously wounded by the indiscriminate firing. The one who died on the spot was named 'Izat Khan; the second man, Soleyman, died in a hospital.

The deceased refugees reportedly belonged to the [Sebqatollah] -- Mojadedi group, while the killers belonged to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar group of Afghan refugees. The killers escaped.

On 22 February, a group of Afghan refugees carried the body of one of the deceased in a procession through the streets here. They were protesting against the killings. The body later was buried at Nasir Bagh.

GANDHI SPEAKS ON NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT

BK0312258 Hong Kong AFP in English 1248 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, March 3 (AFP) -- Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said in parliament today that an Indian delegation had just returned from the Soviet Union after studying technical details of a Soviet offer for assistance in setting up an Indian nuclear power station.

Replying to a question in the upper house Mrs. Gandhi said that the government would study the delegation's report and examine the offer from various angles before taking a final decision.

The prime minister said all operating nuclear power stations as well as those under construction, save the Tarapur atomic power station, would use indigenous uranium as fuel.

Mrs. Gandhi said fuel for the Tarapur station was processed in India from imported enriched uranium, adding that existing facilities were adequate for requirements of the Tarapur station.

Mrs. Gandhi told the house last week that India and France had finalized a draft commercial contract for the supply of French nuclear fuel to the Tarapur atomic power station. This draft is awaiting formal approval by the two countries.

Under the 1963 Indo-U.S. agreement the latter was to supply fuel to the Tarapur station through its estimated 30 year life. But the U.S. fuel supply was stopped in 1981 when India refused to accept certain additional U.S. conditions.

Junior Minister for Science and Technology Shivraj Patil told the house that the Tarapur atomic power station was being operated at a lower level so as to stretch the available fuel.

The prime minister also told the house that steps were being taken to optimise production at existing heavy water plants by on-streaming procedures, by timely and effective maintenance, and effective operation.

She said heavy water production had been tried with four different technically feasible and economically viable technologies and two had been chosen for larger capacity plants.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON ASSAM STATE SITUATION

Refugees Leave for Other States

BK0309025 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Home Minister P.C. Sethi informed the Lok Sabha today that 230,000 refugees crossed over from Assam into north Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh. Relief is being provided to them in 145 camps set up in the border areas. The Assam Government has been instructed to set up such camps and provide all necessary help to the refugees. Sethi was replying to a question after making a statement regarding some incidents that took place in Assam in the last 3 days.

He said Tuesday night a mob of about 1,000 people in Hathikali area in Sibsagar District set fire to about 30 houses and killed abour 24 fishermen. Thirty-two others, including women and children, have been injured.

On receipt of the information high police officials rushed to the spot. When they were returning they were attacked by a violent crowd of about 500 with lethal weapons near (Dumia) village. The police resorted to firing in which two persons were killed. In another incident the next day, one assistant subinspector was killed when a mob attacked (Madhevpur) police outpost in Nowgong District. Police opened fire and three persons were killed. The mob went on a rampage in another village and set fire to some houses. The police opened fire to control the situation in which three more persons were killed. Sethi said the Army has been called in and intensive patrolling is continuing. Certain areas in the seven districts of the Brahmaputra Valley have been declared disturbed areas. He assured the house that the government is taking all possible steps to see that peace and harmony is restored as early as possible. After Sethi's statement, some opposition members demanded a discussion on the postelection situation in Assam. Earlier, just before the home minister made the statement, several opposition members demanded admission of an adjournment motion on the situation in Assam. When the speaker refused, opposition groups belonging to the Bharatiya Janata Party, Janata, Lok Dal, and Democratic Socialist Party staged a walkout protesting against the speaker's decision.

The minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Laskar, informed the Rajya Sabha today that five central reserve police force and one Rajasthan armed constabulary personnel were killed while on election duty in the state and none of the employees deputized from outside the state lost his life while on election duty.

Martial Law Declared

BK031532 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Gauhati, northeast India, March 3 (AFP) -- Martial law was imposed today in seven out of the 10 districts in riot-torn Assam state, where native Assamese have launched a drive against "illegal immigrants" from neighboring Bangladesh and Nepal.

An official announcement said Army units had been sent into the districts to keep order along with the police and the state civil administration, in terms of the Assam disturbed areas act.

While Home Minister Prakash Chandra Sethi spoke of 33 deaths in incidents over the past 24 hours, correspondents here put the figure at 39. Unofficial counts put the number of dead in violence in the past three weeks at more than 3,500 while official figures stand at 1,546.

Mr. Sethi estimated that 230,000 refugees had crossed from Assam into neighbouring west Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh during the recent violence.

The Army was authorized to take Draconian measures to repress violence between the ethnic communities, Mr. Sethi told parliament in Delhi. These measures included arrests without warrant, searches and destruction of any building used by trouble-makers.

At the same time, special courts were being set up to try as quickly as possible people responsible for violence.

'Extremists' Arrested

BK040804 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] In Assam, nine extremists were arrested at Tejpur yesterday. A country-made pistol and 34 empty cartridges were recovered from them. An independent candidate in last month's assembly elections, who was a former minister, was injured critically last evening when he and his security guard were attacked by some armed persons at Jorhat. The guard, who opened fire, killed one of the attackers.

NEPAL

REFUGEES FROM INDIA'S ASSAM ARRIVE IN JHAPA

BK041008 Hong Kong AFP in English 0954 GMT 4 Mar 83

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Katmandu, March 4 (AFP) -- A large number of Nepalese from the trouble torn Indian state of Assam have started arriving in Jhapa at 290 kms (190 miles) south east of Katmandu, an official said today.

These destitute Nepalese are streaming back mostly from the Assamese districts of Guahati, Nowgong, Darrang and Sivasagar where communal violence sparked by the anti-immigrant movement has resulted in February death toll put officially at 1500.

Official reports reaching Katmandu said that some Nepalese had been trekking back from Assam in search of shelter and their relatives.

Most of the returning Nepalese have left behind landed properties including houses while some had gone to Assam searching for jobs long ago.

This landlocked kingdom has already been facing a serious problem due to the large influx of migrants from the northern Indian states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in the past couple of years.

The government has started a survey on the exact number of Indian migrants in Nepal, including the number of Bihar Moslems who crossed over in 1972 following the political changes that took place in Bangladesh.

Some 70,000 of those Bihari Moslems had already been repatriated to Pakistan through the intermediaries of the United Nations high commission for refugees in 1973-1974, but several thousand are believed to have stayed behind icognito mostly in the tropical regions bordering India.

An official source said here that the Nepalese Government was expected to take drastic steps to check the influx into Nepal of both Indian migrants and Nepalese arriving from Assam. One such step included the introduction of a work permit system for the migrants.

National planners are deeply worried by the influx and the country's rapid population growth which stands at 2.6 percent against food production growth of 1.7 percent for the past ten years.

PRESIDENT CABLES SUPPORT TO AL-QADHDHAFI

LD031943 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Following the recent U.S. imperialist conspiracies against Libya, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i sent a message to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Libyan head of state, announcing the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for that country in the face of any aggressive provocations by the United States.

The message says in part: These provocations, on the eve of the weakening of the shaky foundations of the imposed regime in Iraq, while U.S. strategic interests are being endangered, are reaction against the Libyan Jamahiriyah for its continuous and consistent defense of the righteous stance of the Islamic Republic in the imposed war. By this satanic move, the United States on the one hand wishes to bare its fangs against the progressive and revolutionary governments of the region, and on the other hand, it wishes to reassure its trembling and hated agents, who are living in fear because of the wrath of their nations.

The message also says: In view of the stance of the revolutionary Libyan Jamahiriyah against arrogance, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which considers it a prime duty to defend the integrity of the world of Islam and progressive and Islamic governments in accordance with the exalted teachings of Islam, announces its support for the brother country of Libya in the face of any aggressive provocations by the archsatan.

KHAMENE'I ADDRESSES RECONSTRUCTION WORKERS

LD011037 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA -- President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Monday that in spite of the constant Iraqi offensives against the city of Khorramshahr, south of Iraq, [as received] rehabilitation works would soon be started there through the devotion and cooperation of Tehran's people.

Speaking in a meeting with a group of officials in charge of this task, the president noted that people should not merely suffice to extending financial support. Rather, he added, they should maintain a constant supervision over the procedure.

He called on the officials to further rely on popular forces rather than on administrative power.

Admiring the vigilance of the people, President Khamene'i stressed that it was a divine blessing that in the [words indistinct] the government truly belonged to the people, a situation which had no precedent elsewhere in the world.

HEAD, MEMBERS OF TAXATION COUNCIL DISMISSED

LD031828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] On the basis of a directive issued by the minister of economic affairs and finance, the head of supreme council of taxation and all members of that council have been dismissed.

Commenting on this issue Mr Namazi, minister of economic affairs and finance, said: It has been decided to invite those with more knowledge of Islamic ideas and principles who will use their knowledge and understanding of taxation laws and regulations in the realization of Islamic rules and principles.

The minister also said: Whereas the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance was entrusted with the task of collecting taxes approved by legislation by the Majlis and the Council of Guardians, it is also responsible for preventing any action in the direction of overtaxation or bullying people in the field of taxation that is contrary to Islamic principles. The supreme council of taxation is the highest office with the task of investigating disputes in taxation.

EMIGRE WEEKLY VIEWS TUDEH LEADERS' ARRESTS

NC031230 Paris IRAN-E AZAD in Persian 26 Feb 83 p 4

[Text] Following the arrest of Nureddin Kianuri, secretary general of the Tudeh Party, and about 30 other leaders and members of this pro-Soviet party, differing reports were published in the Iranian and international press last week on the continuation of arrests and the release of a number of the people arrested.

The French press namely reported that a number of officers of the Armed Forces have been arrested in connection with the Tudeh Party. Nevertheless, both the Iranian and the Soviet Governments stressed after the arrests that this event should not and cannot have important impacts on the good relations between the two governments.

The Islamic Republic also announced that despite the arrests of the Tudeh Party leaders on charges of spying, this party continues to be legal and can continue its activities. Informed sources have reported from Tehran that, immediately after the recent arrests, the Tudeh Party reorganized itself and the name of Engineer Farajollah Mizani, alias F. Javanshir, can be seen among the new leaders. Eng Mizani, a veteran and well-known Tudeh Party member, has assumed duties.

One of the important points in relation with the arrest of Kianuri and of other members of the Tudeh leadership cadre is that only PRAVDA, organ of the CPSU, voiced a protest against the Islamic Republic while IZVESTIYA, official organ of the Soviet Government, remained silent. Informed observers believe that in view of the great and increasing Soviet infiltration in the life of the Islamic Republic, as well as the increased infiltration of Soviet agents in various antiregime groups and especially the Mojahedin-e Khalq, the arrest of Kianuri and of his close associates has not greatly upset the Soviet Government because this act actually helped draw a curtain in front of the true activities and the true identity of Soviet agents in Iran who, contrary to Kianuri, Tabari, Beh Azin, 'Amyi and are not very well known. Also this act helped to actually remove one of the obstacles in the further official and unofficial infiltration of the communists in Iran.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,236

LD031727 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,236 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, battles between the mighty combatants of Islam and the Saddamist aggressor mercenaries continued along the western fronts with the exchange of artillery and other heavy weapons fire. Our forces defended their positions and protective sectors, inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy by dispatching patrol groups, and infiltrated the Iraqi defensive lines.

During this operation, a number of Iraqi personnel were either killed or wounded. Enemy losses included two vehicles, two heavy machineguns, one 122-mm artillery gun, and several bunkers.

The Army's artillery fire leveled the Iraqi forces positions in Rowshanabad, situated in the Marivan operational zone. This operation also resulted in bringing enemy moves and actions to a halt and in inflicting losses and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries.

During exchanges of fire on the Abadan front, the warriors of the Gendarmerie fired in retaliation and succeeded in halting enemy fire. As a result of this operation, a number of Iraqi personnel were killed and injured. Seven foxholes, bunkers, and observation posts were destroyed, and one building used by the Iraqi personnel was set afire.

On the Khorramshahr front, sporadic exchange of fire continued. These exchanges were more intense at Pole-E-now and (Chalamcheh) region.

On other southern operational fronts, the triumphant warriors of Islam are continuing to defend their defensive positions and are simultaneously controlling the Saddamist forces' moves and actions, using artillery and other heavy weapons fire. Our forces are inflicting losses and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries by using patrol groups and tank hunter teams.

Two civilian houses yesterday were destroyed in Abadan as a result of the Iraqi Zionist mercenaries' artillery fire.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

28 FEBRUARY ATTACK IN KORDESTAN REPORTED

GF031928 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] According to a Free Voice of Iran correspondent, an important base of Khomeyni's retaliatory force at Sar Dasht in Kordestan was attacked and destroyed by units of the Kordish fighters and peshmarga elements in a midnight attack last Sunday on 28 February.

The Kordish fighters surrounded the headquarters of the revolution guards camp and attacked with RCG-7 rockets and heavy machineguns destroying 2 storehouses containing arms and ammunition.

In this attack 50 of Khomeyni's guards were killed. The command post and two collective trenches were also destroyed along with other military equipment.

NVOI COMMENTARY ASSAILS ANTI-SOVIET ACTIVITIES

TA281129 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Do Not Underestimate the Danger of the Ploys of the Implementors of the Zionist Brzezinski's Directive"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Very recently, the KEYHAN newspaper, while disclosing the great satan's aggressive and imperialist plan for crushing the Iranian Revolution and preparing the conditions for direct aggression by U.S. imperialism on Iran, emphasized that this plan, whatever it may be, cannot be implemented without the Soviet neighbor's green light. The author of this article termed the policy of anti-Sovietism, the struggle against the democratic and independent Republic of Afghanistan, and some other factors such as the answer of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the protest letter of the Soviet Union's Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the demonstrations in front of the Soviet Embassy and the intimidation of the employees of this embassy and so forth, as the Islamic Republic of Iran's independent policy.

The author stressed that these factors have allegedly caused the Soviet Union's failure in allegedly drawing the Islamic Revolution of Iran closer to the Eastern bloc, and then drew the conclusion that due to this so-called failure the Soviet Union has allegedly turned on the green light for overthrowing the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In other words, allegedly Reagan and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, with the help of its Iranian agents headed by the hojjatis without the hojjat have succeeded in carrying out the well-known Brzezinski-Carter directive. However, due to the ill fortune of the great satan and the CIA's multifarious agents and mercenaries, led above all by the hojjatis without the hojjat, and due to the good fortune of the Iranian nation, the support of our next-door neighbor, the Soviet Union, for the Iranian Revolution and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a principled and not a tactical support, and the international backing of the Soviet Union for the Iranian Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran is continuing.

Certain moments appear in the realm of politics that render the statement of facts unavoidable. It is a fact that if as KEYHAN has claimed, U.S. imperialism will become convinced that the Soviet Union has turned on the green light for overthrowing the Islamic Republic of Iran, it must be understood that the Americans will not lose even a single moment and will immediately rise in open confrontation against Iran's popular and anti-imperialist revolution, and in pulling through dust and blood the struggling Muslim, the true forces of the revolution and all those who are sincerely defending the revolution's and the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line.

Yes, our nation's good fortune is that our next-door neighbor views developments with a very wide perspective, and is continuing its defense of the Iranian Revolution because of its anti-imperialist and popular characteristic. Any fairminded Iranian knows that it was Mr Brezhnev's warning in November 1979 [as heard] that cautioned U.S. imperialism from interfering in Iran's internal affairs, and caused the U.S. world-devourers to understand that under no pretext and excuse will the Soviet Union tolerate interference in the Iranian Revolution. This warning by our northern neighbor became a turning point in realization of the victory of the glorious revolution of our homeland's people.

Following the revolution as well, despite all the insulting attitudes of certain elements in the Islamic leadership such as the Bani-Sadrs, the Qotbzadehs, the rightists and the U.S. afflicted hojjatis toward our northern neighbor, and despite the application of an open and harsh anti-Soviet policy by a certain wing in the Islamic government, the Soviet Union has up to now continued and is continuing its sincere backing for the revolution and Islamic Republic of Iran.

The great role of our northern neighbor in disclosing all the plots of U.S. imperialism against the revolution of our homeland's people, and in foiling Iran's economic blockade by the supercriminal America through the signing of a transit agreement which according to Iran's minister of transport is unilaterally in the interest of Iran, have been recorded in history. Despite the totally unfriendly attitude of certain circles in our country, Soviet experts are sincerely aiding in the repair and reconstruction of Iran's industrial projects.

Numerous evidence proves the fact that the Soviet Union views with respect Iran's national sovereignty and independence and our homeland's territorial integrity. The Soviet Union has announced again and again that it is ready to overcome Iran's needs, to provide Iran with any required goods and to give every sort of assistance to our revolutionary homeland.

Despite the Soviet Union's principled support for the Iranian People's Revolution, with deep regret some persons, even in the upper echelons, are continuing to implement an anti-Soviet policy. The amazing thing is that they have called such a lack of policy "the neither East nor West" policy.

The foes of the Iranian Revolution, headed by U.S.-afflicted hojjatis and their masters in the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, are well aware that the way to crush the Iranian Revolution and to prepare conditions for a direct aggression by U.S. imperialism against Iran is firstly to make Iran's million-strong toiling masses and all anti-imperialist strata dissatisfied, and secondly to halt the support of the Soviet Union for the Iranian Revolution and to destroy the frontier of peace and friendship between revolutionary Iran and the Soviet Union and Democratic Afghanistan.

It is not without reason that the broad spectrum of the foes of the Iranian Revolution, led by the U.S.-afflicted hojjatis, by means of a calculated plan, are engaged in preparing precisely such conditions. On the one hand, simultaneously with open struggle against fundamental measures by the realistic wing of the Islamic leadership to the benefit of the million-strong toiling masses, by overt defense of the economic terrorists who are wrecking havoc on the people, and by arresting the leaders of the revolutionary dissenting forces committed to the revolution, they are sowing the seed of discontent among the million-strong masses. On the other hand they are striving to implement Brzezinski's plan in straining the Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with the Soviet Union.

These are very obvious issues whose comprehension and appreciation is not so difficult. What is certain is that the continuation of forbearance toward the rightists and the U.S.-afflicted hojjatis, these foes and opponents of the revolution and the imam's line, will lead the revolution to destruction.

AFGHAN 'REVOLUTIONARIES' DOWN SOVIET MIG

LD031915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] The antiaircraft fire of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries in the (Khoshrabat) region has downed one MIG of the Soviet occupying forces. According to reports received, nine MIG's and heliciopter gunships of the Soviet occupying forces last week attempted to bomb the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries concentration points and hiding places in the (Diwanchah) region of Herat Province, but were repulsed by the revolutionaries' resistance; one MIG was downed by the revolutionaries' antiaircraft fire in the (Khoshrabat) region.

Simultaneously with this air attack by the Soviet occupying forces, the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries captured and killed six soldiers of the Afghan regime ruling in a region of Herat Province; one of the captured soldiers had guided the occupying Soviet pilots during the recent bombing of (Marzan) and (Diwanchah).

AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN 24 FEB ATTACK REPORTED

GF011755 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Zahedan, Mar 1 IRNA -- In a surprise guerrilla attack by Afghan Mujahidin on the joint Soviet and Afghan Government forces two tanks were destroyed by the fire of RPG 7 (anti tank missile) and all its occupants killed.

This attack took place on Feb 24 on the highway road leading from Herat to Shindand.

In this attack one heavy armament and some Kalashnikov with their munitions were taken as booty by the Afghan mujahidin.

Informed sources said the Soviet helicopters and MIG jet fighters resorted to bombardment of villages in the Shindand region in Herat Province in retaliation for the attack. As a result of this bombardment heavy material and human casualities were inflicted on the people of this region.

MUSAVI DISCUSSES AFGHAN IMMIGRANTS ISSUE

LD031848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Provincial officials in charge of councils coordinating the affairs of Afghan immigrants who are in Tehran attending a seminar examining Afghan immigrants' issues and problems met with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi this morning. The officials were accompanied by the Interior Ministry political and social under secretary, who briefed the prime minister on the aims behind convening the seminar.

In his remarks, the prime minister referred to the question of Afghan immigrants and the prevailing circumstances in our country resulting from the imposed war and said: We must deal with the question of Afghan immigrants in a comprehensive manner. As long as the Soviet Army is in Afghanistan and the Muslim people of Afghanistan are unable to determine their own destiny, the issue of Afghan immigrants will naturally continue for our country. In addition, the Islamic Revolution's aspirations and the common viewpoint that we share with this neighboring state make it essential for us to deal with our Afghan brothers and sisters' problems and issues in a good and suitable way and with realism.

Continuing his remarks the prime minister stressed the Islamic Revolution's mission in paying firm attention to the world oppressed and deprived nations and said: We cannot remain indifferent toward people who have been forced to emmigrate as a result of offensives and pressure; from the religious viewpoint too we are obliged to help them resolve their problems.

Stressing the need to issue the Afghan immigrants identity cards, the prime minister said that it is also necessary to make our Afghan brothers understand that in our country the rule of Islam governs and that it is essential for all our brother and sister Afghans to respect Islamic laws and to prevent a minority, however small, from succeeding in giving the struggling Afghan nation's face a distorted picture.

REPORTAGE ON BELGIUM ECONOMIC DELEGATION'S VISIT

1 March Arrival

LD011116 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA -- Belgian minister of foreign trade, Andre Kempinaire, said here today that over 90 percent of his country's crude oil imports was supplied by the Islamic Republic of Iran, amounting to 450 million dollars in 1982.

Kempinaire, who arrived here today at the head of an economic and trade delegation, said that Belgium in return exported chemicals, machinery, metal, and industrial equipment to Iran.

He noted that this visit was mainly for the establishment of friendly ties between the two countries aiming at creating future economic relations and signing contracts in the interest of the two nations.

Iranian Commerce Minister Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi Mosalman who received the Belgian delegation at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, said that Iran's new stance, created in the wake of constant victories achieved by the Islamic combatants in the Iraqi imposed war, necessitated a revision in the Islamic Republic's trade and economic ties with other states.

To this end, the Islamic Republic would continue its transactions with those countries which had taken a cordial position vis-a-vis Iran in international developments, 'Asgar-Owladi Mosalman said.

Therefore, after a careful study in this respect, the Islamic Republic would take great strides for the expansion of its trade relations with such countries, including Belgium, the minister said.

Meeting With Velayati

LD012343 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The Belgian foreign trade minister, who has come to Tehran at the head of a delegation made up of state and private trade and economic officials, met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon. During this meeting, while referring to the history of good economic relations between the two countries, the Belgian foreign trade minister declared the readiness of his country to expand trade and industrial relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Afterward, Mr Velayati expressed satisfaction for the stance adopted by Belgium toward the Islamic Republic of Iran and said that it is in the interests of both countries to expand bilateral economic and trade relations. Mr Velayati also expressed hope for the success of the delegation's economic negotiations.

The Belgian foreign trade minister, accompanied by the Belgian ambassador at the Islamic Republic of Iran, also met and conferred with Mr Mohammad Taqi Banki, the minister of state and the head of the plan and budget organization, at the organization's building this evening. While expressing delight at the trip of the Belgian economic delegation to Iran, Mr Banki gave details of the first 5-year plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the method of implementing this plan. Mr Banki said: In this plan special importance has been attached to agriculture, as emphasized by the imam of the nation and the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, so that the Iranian nation can become self-sufficient in this sector as soon as possible.

In reply the Belgian foreign trade minister said: We hope to be able to cooperate with Iran and take part at its future economic development plans.

Meeting With Musavi

GF030644 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] According to a report from our correspondent, the Belgian foreign trade minister, heading an economical and commercial delegation which is currently visiting our country, met with Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, yesterday evening, Mr 'Asgar-Owladi, the minister of commerce, and the director general of the economic department of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of our country were also present in the meeting. They discussed relations between the two countries.

Delegation Departs

LD031148 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Tehran, March 3 (IRNA) -- The Belgian economic and trade delegation headed by External Trade Minister Andre Kempinaire, left Tehran today following a three-day visit and talks with Iranian officials.

Prior to his departure the Belgian external trade minister told IRNA that during his stay in Tehran, he has had the opportunity to discuss possibilities of cooperation between Iran and Belgium in the fields of industry, trade, and agriculture. He further added that following talks with the Iranian Government officials a letter of understanding for cooperation in industry and trade was signed. In the future visits, he added, the matter would have [words indistinct] further followed up.

The Belgian external trade minister said that he also extended an official invitation to the Iranian minister of commerce, Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi, to visit Belgium, which was accepted.

Commenting on the letter of understanding, 'Asgar-Owaldi said that it would enable the Islamic Republic of Iran to export non-oil goods to Belgium in exchange for the technological assistance to Iran. The Iranian minister said that this Belgian counterpart had announced that a high ranking Belgian economic mission would visit Iran late next spring.

MONTAZERI MEETS WITH ALGERIAN DELEGATION 2 MAR

LD031404 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] The speaker of the Algerian National People's Assembly, together with the delegation accompanying him and the ambassadors of Algeria to Iran and Iran to Algeria, met and had talks with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom yesterday afternoon. According to the Central News Unit, Mr Rabih Bitat speaker of the Algerian National People's Assembly, expressed happiness at being able to visit a revolutionary, Islamic country and meet with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and voiced the hope that the fraternal ties between the two Islamic countries will daily expand and become stronger.

Then Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, while thanking him for accepting the invitation extended to him by the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, said: Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani is one of the dedicated worthy personages and one of the original figures in Iran's Islamic Revolution; we spent many years in prison together. Our revolutionary nation attaches special value to the revolution of the Islamic nation of Algeria for being the first to launch the Islamic movement and for giving more than 1 million martyrs in order to obtain independence and freedom, and the Iranian nation will never forget the role played by that great nation in crushing French colonialism.

Ayatollah Montazeri, referring to the position of the Islamic Consultative Assembly in advancing the cause of the Islamic Revolution and the fact that most of its members are dedicated scholars and clergymen, addressed the speaker of the Algerian National People's Assembly. He said: Your duty is a very onerous one indeed. Take care that the laws passed in your assembly are not contrary to the edicts of Islam. Were the law to be passed which is contrary to Islam, God forbid, then -- just as the prophet of Islam graciously said, "He who sets a bad example shall bear its evil consequences" -- all the evil consequences of such a deed would be yours.

Continuing his speech, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: Praise be to Allah, Islam enjoys comprehensive and progressive laws which fully keep pace with the progress of the times and Muslims. Therefore, there is no need for recourse to the ideologies exported by either East or West.

Referring to the holding of the Nonaligned Conference, he then graciously said: We and all the nations of the Third World expect the governments participating in that conference to be truly free and nonaligned as regards the policies of East and West. We expect them to decide on the destinies of the nations and to heed the fact that the fate of world Muslims and the deprived is seriously endangered by the superpowers and oppressors.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri also emphasized: Our revolutionary Muslim nation expects Algeria to inform those Arab heads of state who have joined voices with the infidel Saddam in the U.S.-imposed war on the Islamic Republic, of the revolutionary, Islamic stances of our nation and to tell them candidly: If you accept the religion of Islam, then why have you left alone Israel, the enemy of Islam and the Muslims, and why are you indirectly waging war against the young Islamic Republic, which is preparing for war against Zionism and for the liberation of dear Jerusalem? And if you do not believe in Islam, then at least have some respect for Arab honor and zeal and do not allow Arab lands and territories in the Islamic land of Palestine and Lebanon to remain occupied by Zionism and its acolytes.

In conclusion, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri graciously said: Our great nation is waiting for the day when the world Muslims unite and under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, may his lofty shadow be extended, banish the scourge of world Zionism from the heads of Islam and the Muslims, liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque and return the refugee nation of Palestine to its hearth and home.

The speaker of the Algerian National People's Assembly, in an interview given to an IRNA correspondent, expressed pleasure over his visit to Iran and his meeting with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, and said: During the meeting we emphasized the need for the unity of the independence of the world of Islam and also the fact that the Islamic countries should reach such a level as to be able to wage struggle against the superpowers and oppressive governments.

In another part of his statement, Mr Rabah Bitat said: During the meeting it was also emphasized that the heads of Arab and Islamic states, if they are genuine Muslims, should act in accordance with their tasks and embark on a battle against the regime occupying Jerusalem so that, Allah willing, Palestine and dear Jerusalem may be liberated.

TRANSPORT MINISTER MEETS SFRY REPUBLICAN LEADER

LD030055 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Mr Markovic, president of the Yugoslav Croatian Republic statutory commission, this afternoon met with Mr Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan, the minister of roads and transport.

In this meeting Mr Markovic hoped for the expansion of economic relations between the two countries and said that his country is interested in more extensive cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the sale and repair of locomotives and training of the technical personnel needed for that. He also expressed his country's readiness for the electrification of the Bafq-Bandar 'Abbas railway, shipbuilding, port construction, and cooperation in transport.

In a speech Mr Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan, minister of roads and transport, said: Fortunately since the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran friendly relations have existed between the two countries.

We would very much like you to visit the cities ruined in the imposed war and to see for yourselves the crimes committed by Saddam so that, bearing in mind the sensitive role you play in the Nonaligned Movement, you may defend the truth in the positions you adopt.

The minister of roads and transport also expressed the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran's interest in cooperation with the Yugoslav Government in transport, railways, jetty construction, transportation, and the electrification of railways, and asked the Yugoslav economic delegation to carry out the necessary study and to present its suggestions.

COMMENTARY ON DIRECTION OPEC SHOULD TAKE

GF021918 Tehran International Television Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Unattributed commentary: "OPEC at the Crossroads"]

[Excerpts] In which direction is the OPEC going? This is the question which is being asked anew in the international arena in light of the recent oil developments. Now it has become clear that the gap has become wide between the group of countries which insist on price reduction led by Saudi Arabia and those countries which call for controlling production and for setting up an equation for production reduction by the member countries in order to absorb the international oil surplus which has mainly occurred due to the Saudi policy aimed at glutting the market.

Saudi Arabia, which is the biggest oil exporter in OPEC, opposes any unanimous decision on prices or production, or in other words it plays the protector role in the interests of the West and the oil-consuming countries against any measures which may be taken in the future.

Revolutionary Iran has declared that increases in oil prices are very fair and that the economies of the Western countries are suffering from several problems foremost of which are inflation and unemployment, and that the partial increase in oil prices has not caused these overestimated damages about which the Western industrial countries have reported.

OPEC has held a number of meetings to remedy the Saudi position, but the results were always the same due to the stand of protecting the Western interests which was led by Saudi Arabia which ignored all economic and political concepts. In this way Saudi Arabia opposes any unanimous decision made by OPEC on prices and production shares. The threat now is represented by glutting the market with cheap oil and leading the organization's countries into a fierce price war that can completely destroy the region and jeopardize all parties.

Due to this threat, Britain and Nigeria have reduced the prices of their oil in preparation for the whole process. However, in light of these developments which threaten the future of OPEC, there still remains a hope that the oil-producing countries in their expected extraordinary meeting will achieve a minimum limit of understanding in order to avoid the eruption of a price war, from which no one will benefit.